**John Proctor**

**Description:**

**“He is a farmer in his mid thirties” (pg. 27) who is portrayed as an independent character and a good Christian yet he tends to remain apart from the village of Salem by not attending congregational church services, because he reaches a sense of disapproval of Reverend Parris’ greed and the corruption of the church. He has a lot of guilt as he has had a secret history with Abigail, the lust that he had for her which led to his affair. Proctor is a proud man that upholds his reputation in Salem, as Arthur Miller states that “Proctor is respected and even feared in Salem” (page 27) He believes that he can’t reveal the truth about the girls pretending to not know much about the witchcraft because he knows he can’t tell what he knows without revealing that he was alone with Abigail Williams.**

**Throughout Act 1 John Proctor is conscious and aware of his actions towards Abigail and regrets it as he feels guilty, this is shown when he states “Abby, I may think of you softly from time to time. But I will cut off my hand before I’ll ever reach for you again. Wipe it out of mind. We never touched, Abby” (pg. 29). In this extract Proctor is trying to stop the Abigail’s thoughts of ever being together as he states “Abby, I never give you hope to wait for me” (pg. 28)** **Abigail believed it to be true love but Proctor knew it was just lust towards her. She told John Proctor that she loved him, and once she destroys Elizabeth, they would be free to love one another. Proctor is horrified at this, but can do nothing to convince Abigail that he is not in love with her.**

**Purpose:**

**John Proctor is representing the hypocrisy of the society. Even though he is respected and feared in Salem he isn’t a good person himself although the people of Salem believe so, yet they don’t know his true self as he hides away his “evil, dark secret”.**

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